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## Young Historians Win Awards

*(NOTE TO EDITORS: Award winners from your county are listed at the end of the release.)*



**October 8, 2020 (RALEIGH, N.C.)** — Although this year has come with lots of changes for students and teachers across the state, the N.C. Museum of History has continued its Tar Heel Junior Historian Association (THJHA) awards. These awards recognized junior historians for outstanding projects submitted in THJHA contests, which encourage students to research the historical significance of people, places, and events in their own communities.

All winning projects are showcased in the exhibit ***History in Every Direction: Tar Heel Junior Historian Association Discovery Gallery***, now open to visitors at the museum.

“Though we weren’t able to gather junior historians in person as we usually do for the Annual Convention, we were still able to join together virtually to announce the winners of our Annual Contests and celebrate the work of so many students across our state,” said Jessica Pratt, THJHA program coordinator. “Now that the museum has opened its doors to the public, we look forward to sharing the history that these junior historians have discovered with our visitors.”

Authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1953, the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association is sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of History, part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The association is made up of a network of FREE clubs across the state, with members in grades 4–12. Each club must have at least one adult adviser.

Clubs may be sponsored by public, private, or home schools, or by other organizations such as museums and historical societies, 4-H groups, Boy Scouts, or Girl Scouts. Clubs can be any size, from one student

and one adviser to hundreds of students and several advisers. Clubs must renew their membership each school year, using an online application at [tarheeljuniorhistorians.org](http://tarheeljuniorhistorians.org).

### **Student, Chapter and Adviser THJHA Award Winners**

Awards are given for outstanding THJHA chapters and advisers, as well as student projects. Categories of competition include media projects, art projects, literary projects and essays, an artifact search, photography projects, and a state history quiz.

Projects encourage students to understand and appreciate our state's heritage. Groups as well as individuals received awards.

#### **CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

The **2020 Chapter of the Year Award** goes to **Piedmont Patriot Historians** from **Piedmont Community Charter School** in **Gastonia**. With their adviser Matt Richards at the helm, they have been active since 2012. During the 2019–2020 school year, they visited local sites of interest, such as Kings Mountain National Military Park and Cowpens National Battlefield, to name a few. The Piedmont Patriots also explored local history, including the Loray Mill strike of 1929 and Central School—a historic building from 1915 that is on their school's campus. Although the club was originally created to bring students who shared a love for history together, they quickly doubled into a service organization that helps throughout the community. This year they teamed up with Shelby Chick-fil-A and the United States Marine Corps for their Toys for Tots initiative (for the eighth consecutive year!). They also partnered with the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia to help volunteer for events at the museum. Congrats again to this brilliant club! We can't wait to see what you do next!

#### **ADVISER OF THE YEAR**

Our **Adviser of the Year for 2020** is **Rebecca Dunhem** of the **TFA NC Explorers**, from the **Fletcher Academy**. She first learned about the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association a few years ago and immediately became interested in participating. In her own words: "I saw the THJHA club as a great opportunity for my students to learn about their home state and to build a connection and pride in North Carolina's rich history." This year her club started with a foundation of studying artifacts and geography. They practiced using artifacts related to North Carolina history and wrote artifact analysis. From there, her students moved on to analyzing primary sources—including the North Carolina Charter of 1663—and were challenged to build their critical thinking skills in order to think like historians. Under leadership like Dunhem's, it's no wonder that her students brought home five awards from our Annual Contests!

#### **ROOKIE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

The Rookie Chapter of the Year award recognizes a first- or second-year club that gets off to a strong start, aligning its activities with the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association's mission and goals. The **2020 Rookie Chapter of the Year** award goes to the **Roots Club of SFL** at **Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School**. Founded in 2018, the Roots Club of SFL didn't waste any time digging into the history of their 160+-year-old school and community's agricultural roots! While learning about North Carolina in their fourth grade class, their belief is that by focusing on local history, they can make it even more meaningful and relevant. In the 2019–2020 club year, club members completed a scavenger hunt using old North Carolina and Moore County maps given to them by the Moore County Historical Society. They also worked on their THJHA Annual Contest skills by learning from a guest photographer who spoke about basic photography skills and photo composition. From there, students took their new skills and used them to photograph historical places and artifacts from their community. You can see their winning entries in this gallery!

**\*Buncombe County 2020 THJHA Winner\***

**Winners from Reynolds Mountain Christian Academy, Asheville**

**Alexis Gosnell**, a member of the **Reynolds Mountain Junior Historians** club, received second in the Creative Writing Contest.

**Ruthie Pritchard**, a member of the **Reynolds Mountain Junior Historians** club, placed second for the elementary division of the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest.

**\*Chatham County 2020 THJHA Winner\***

**Winners from Homeschool, Apex**

**Aynsley and Preston Szczesniak**, members of the **Heritage is the Pointe!** club in Apex, won secondary awards in the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest in the intermediate division. **Aynsley Szczesniak** won first place for the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest with her submission titled *The Chatham County Courthouse*. **Preston Szczesniak** won third place for the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest with his submission titled *Bynum Mill: A Feature of Chatham County's History*.

**\*Craven County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winner from Peluso Christian Academy, New Bern**

**Matthew Peluso** won first place in the intermediate division for his Creative Writing submission, "Highlights of the Diary of John Smith."

The **Peluso Junior Historians** claimed second place in the intermediate division in the group Video Documentary Contest for their entry titled *Front Porch Bickering: Tryon Palace vs. CSS*.

**\*Cumberland County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winner from Fayetteville Academy, Cumberland County**

**Grant Krakover** won first place in the individual intermediate division for his Exhibit/Visual Art submission, *Innovation in Flight: The Wright Brothers*.

**Winners from HOME, Cumberland County**

Members of the **History Hounds of Cape Fear** from **HOME** won individual awards.

**Claire Ledford** won first place in the Creative Writing Contest in the secondary division for her "Fighting on Two Fronts," entry, which also won the African American History Award; she also placed first in the secondary division of the Photography Contest with her entry *Oregon Inlet Life Saving Station*. **Cobey Ledford** was named a winner in the secondary division of the Artifact Search Contest for "Collars and cuffs box."

**Eric Jones** was also a winner in the secondary division of the Artifact Search Contest for his submission “Plow.”

**Keegan Lewis** was named second place in the secondary division for the individual entry “Land of the Free,” as well as first place for the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz; **Robert Carpenter** was named the second place winner in the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz; and **Zander Kreiling** was named a winner in the Artifact Search in the secondary division for his “Practice bomb.”

#### **Winner from St. Patrick Catholic School, Fayetteville**

**Victoria Romero** placed third in the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest with the submission titled *North Carolina's Brunswick Islands*.

#### **\*Davie County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

##### **Winners from North Davie Middle School, Mocksville**

Members of the **North Davie Junior Historians** from **North Davie Middle School** won first place in the intermediate division for the Video Documentary entry *The Bombing of Hiroshima*.

#### **\*Durham County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

##### **Winner from Oakbrook Academy, Durham**

**Anuragini Barman** won first place in the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz in the elementary division and first place in the Creative Writing Contest, elementary division for the piece, “Grandma Running Water’s Story.”

#### **\*Gaston County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

##### **Winners from Piedmont Community Charter School, Gastonia**

Members of the **Piedmont Patriot Historians** from **Piedmont Community Charter School** won individual awards and a group award.

**Alexis Whitworth** won first place in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest in the secondary division for her Spring 2021 Prompt entry. **Banks Greemon** received first place in the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz in the intermediate division. **Sabrina Lorca-Lozano** received second place in the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz in the intermediate division, and received second place in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest in the secondary division for her Spring 2021 Prompt entry. **Aydan Lawler** placed first in the secondary division for Exhibit/Visual Art Contest with the entry *Loray Mill*. **Sarah Montrevil** placed first for the group entry at the secondary division for Creative Writing.

**\*Guilford County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winners from Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Sedalia**

The **Palmer Pirates** from **Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum and Historic Site**, were named a winner of the **History in Action Award**, as they worked to research some of the plants and flowers that would have been found outside Dr. Brown's home by reviewing oral histories, articles, books, and the National Register of Historic Places nomination form. For their community service portion, the Palmer Pirates worked to recreate what their research had found by building planter boxes for flowers, plants, and crops for Canary Cottage.

**Sunny Licklider** won first place in the individual Photography Contest in the intermediate division for her *White Furniture Company* entry; she also won second place in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest in the intermediate division for her Fall 2020 Prompt entry. **Christopher McCorvey** won second place in the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest in the intermediate division for his *Canary Cottage* entry.

**\*Johnston County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winners from the Johnston Country Home Educators, Clayton**

**David Young** won second place in the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest in the secondary division for his Spring 2021 Prompt entry.

**Gracie Waltz** won second place for her intermediate division entry, *The Hastings House*, for the North Carolina Historic Architecture Photography Contest.

**\*Moore County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winners from Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School, Carthage**

The **2020 Rookie Chapter of the Year** award goes to the **Roots Club of SFL at Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School**. Founded in 2018, the Roots Club of SFL didn't waste any time digging into the history of their 160+-year-old school and community's agricultural roots! While learning about North Carolina in their fourth grade class, their belief is that by focusing on local history, they can make it even more meaningful and relevant. In the 2019–2020 club year, club members completed a scavenger hunt using old North Carolina and Moore County maps given to them by the Moore County Historical Society. They also worked on their THJHA Annual Contest skills by learning from a guest photographer who spoke about basic photography skills and photo composition. From there, students took their new skills and used them to photograph historical places and artifacts from their community. You can see their winning entries in this gallery!

In addition, three students claimed wins for the North Carolina Historic Architecture Photography Contest in the elementary division: **Beckett Puchalski** won second place for their Houses entry *The Shaw House*; **Mary Grace Hilliard** won second place for her Public Buildings entry *Bethel Presbyterian Church*; and **Joshua Roby** won first place for his Markers entry *John Black Ray*.

**\*Person County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winner from Oak Tree Academy, Roxboro**

**Dale Painter** of **The Time Travelers club** was named a winner in the Artifact Search Contest for his “North Carolina map.”

**\*Stanly County 2020 THJHA\***

**Winner from Aquadale Elementary School, Norwood**

**Colton Mills** from **Aquadale Elementary School** was named a winner in the individual Artifact Search contest in the elementary division for his “American dome-top trunk.”

**\*Surry County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winners from the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, Mount Airy**

The **Jesse Franklin Pioneers** club at the **Mount Airy Museum of Regional History** in Mount Airy was awarded first place in the group Video Documentary Contest at the elementary division for their *Back to the Blue Ridge Inn*.

Individually, **Andrew Edwards** won first place in the Video Documentary Contest at the elementary division for his entry titled *Wilmington and Film*. **James Caudill** and **Laney Robertson** were both named winners in the Artifact Search Contest.

**\*Wake County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

**Winners from Underwood GT Magnet Elementary, Raleigh**

Members of the **MUG T MES Historians** from **Underwood GT Magnet Elementary** won individual awards.

**Aaron Vanmatre** placed first in the group Creative Writing Contest; **Charlotte Eaddy** placed second in the Creative Writing Contest in the elementary division for her entry “The Life of Susie Sharp”; **Lisa Howard** placed second in the Christopher Crittenden State History Quiz and first in the Fall 2020 Prompt for the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest; and **Yobani Perez-Torralba** placed first in the Houses Photography Contest for their entry *The Mordecai House*.

**Winner from Garner Area Homeschoolers**

**Rachel Walker** won the **Women’s History Award** in the individual intermediate division for the *THJH* Magazine Article Contest Spring 2021 Prompt for her piece, “Debra Austin: Ballet, a Changing Industry in Our Own Backyard.”

**Winners from The Fletcher Academy, Raleigh**

Our **Adviser of the Year for 2020** is **Rebecca Dunhem** of the TFA NC Explorers, from the Fletcher Academy. She first learned about the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association a few years ago and immediately became interested in participating. In her own words: “I saw the THJHA club as a great opportunity for my students to learn about their home state and to build a connection and pride in North Carolina’s rich history.” This year her club started with a foundation of studying artifacts and geography. They practiced using artifacts related to North Carolina history and wrote artifact analysis. From there, her students moved on to analyzing primary sources—including the North Carolina Charter of 1663—and were challenged to build their critical thinking skills in order to think like historians. Under leadership like Dunhem’s, it’s no wonder that her students brought home five awards from our Annual Contests!

Several **TFA NC Explorers** won individual awards. **Alex Macdonald** placed second in the Creative Writing Contest for the entry “Journal of George Earl Preddy”; **Kennedy Goodall** placed second in the Commercial/Industrial Buildings Photography Contest; **Lizzie-Kay Kinnel** and **Matthew Brabson** received wins for their Artifact Search entries in the intermediate division; **Luke Faircloth** placed first in Creative Writing.

The **TFA NC Explorers** also secured two group awards. The club placed first in the Creative Writing Contest in the intermediate division, and placed second in the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest in the intermediate division for the entry *The Basket of the Three Sisters*.

#### **Winners from Homeschool Families, Raleigh**

The **We ARGH!** from the **Homeschool Families** in Raleigh received first place in the Exhibit/Visual Art Contest in the intermediate division for a group for the entry *Biltmore Estate Industries*.

#### **Winners from Full Armor Classical Academy, Garner**

The **Wolfpack Howling Historians** from **Full Armor Classical Academy** received a few individual awards for the intermediate division. The group took home third place for their Exhibit/Visual Art Contest entry *The Future of the Past: The Garner Station Depot Museum*.

**Bethany Crawford** placed first in the Fall 2020 Prompt for her *THJH* Magazine Article Contest entry. **Luke Crawford** won first for his Spring 2021 Prompt for his *THJH* Magazine Article Contest entry and placed second in the Monuments Photography Contest for the entry *Iron Mike*.

#### **\*Wilson County 2020 THJHA Winners\***

##### **Winner from Greenfield School, Wilson**

**Elijah Denton**, from the **Greenfield Tar Heel Junior Historians** club, won first place in the Photography Contest in the intermediate division for their Architectural Details entry.

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**For information about the NC Museum of History**, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

#### **About the NC Museum of History**

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Last year, more than 465,000 people visited the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

#### **About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network**

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at [affiliations.si.edu](http://affiliations.si.edu).

#### **About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit [DNCR.nc.gov](http://DNCR.nc.gov).

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